



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026 US Geography Championships Multiple Choice Examination 5th and 6th Grade Division

Instructions – This examination consists of 40 questions. You will receive two points for a correct answer. You will lose one point for an incorrect answer. Blank responses lose no points. Please fill in the bubbles completely on the answer sheet. You may write on the examination, but all responses must be bubbled on the answer sheet. All images are contained in the resource document. Diacritic marks such as accents may have been omitted from place names and other proper nouns. You have 35 minutes to complete this examination.

Questions 1-5 are about migration.

1. Push factors in migration are best defined as which of these?
 - A. conditions in the home country that drive people to leave
 - B. cultural ties that connect migrants to their destination
 - C. government policies that control border crossings
 - D. benefits that attract people to a new location
2. Which of these terms describes the movement of people from rural areas to cities?
 - A. counterurbanization
 - B. gentrification
 - C. urbanization
 - D. suburbanization
3. People who flee their home country due to war or persecution and cross an international border are known by which of these terms?
 - A. internal migrants
 - B. deportees
 - C. emigrants
 - D. refugees

4. Which of these best describes a diaspora?
 - A. a legal process for obtaining citizenship in a new country
 - B. a community of people living outside their ancestral homeland
 - C. a government program that relocates citizens to underpopulated regions
 - D. the seasonal movement of livestock between pastures
5. The phenomenon known as brain drain occurs when which of these things happens?
 - A. rural areas lose population because of declining agricultural jobs
 - B. highly educated workers leave a country for better opportunities elsewhere
 - C. a country's population ages rapidly due to low birth rates
 - D. large numbers of migrants arrive in a country within a short period

Questions 6-10 are about coastal landforms?

6. Which of these coastal landforms is formed by erosion, NOT by deposition of sediment?
 - A. beach
 - B. delta
 - C. sea stack
 - D. tombolo
7. Which of these terms describes a sheltered inlet where a river meets the sea and tidal waters mix with fresh water?
 - A. atoll
 - B. estuary
 - C. fjord
 - D. lagoon
8. Which of these terms describes a long, narrow ridge of sand or shingle that extends from the coast into open water?
 - A. spit
 - B. cusped foreland
 - C. tombolo
 - D. sandbar
9. Longshore drift moves sediment along a coastline in which of these ways?
 - A. directly away from shore in a straight line
 - B. upward onto the cliff face
 - C. in a zigzag pattern parallel to the shoreline
 - D. downward onto the seafloor
10. Which of these conditions would most likely cause a coastline to become emergent over time?
 - A. sea levels rising faster than the land
 - B. sediment building up on the ocean floor
 - C. increased storm activity eroding the shoreline
 - D. the land gradually rising or sea levels falling

Questions 11-15 are about population geography.

11. Which of these terms describes the number of people living per square kilometer in an area?

- A. carrying capacity
- B. population density
- C. migration rate
- D. birth rate

12. The total fertility rate of a country measures which of these?

- A. the ratio of young people to elderly people in a population
- B. the percentage of women in the workforce
- C. the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime
- D. the number of births per 1,000 people per year

13. Which of these best describes the term 'overpopulation'?

- A. when a region's population exceeds what its resources can sustainably support
- B. when immigration exceeds emigration in a given year
- C. a country with more elderly people than young people
- D. a city growing faster than its rural surroundings

14. An aging population is most likely to create which of these challenges for a country?

- A. greater pressure on pension and healthcare systems
- B. declining demand for housing in rural areas
- C. an increase in school enrollments
- D. a shortage of unskilled agricultural workers

15. The dependency ratio measures the relationship between which of these groups?

- A. literate and illiterate adults in a country
- B. urban and rural populations
- C. native-born citizens and immigrants
- D. working-age people and those too young or old to work

Questions 16-20 refer to image 1 in the resource section.

16. What famously neutral landlocked nation is shown at number 4 on the map?

- A. France
- B. Austria
- C. Switzerland
- D. Germany

17. Transylvania is a historical region in the country marked by what number on the map?

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 12
- D. 13

18. The country marked 1 on the map was formerly part of which of the following?

- A. Commonwealth of Independent States
- B. Czechoslovakia
- C. Yugoslavia
- D. USSR

19. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are Russian-occupied territories in the nation marked at what number on the map?

- A. 14
- B. 15
- C. 17
- D. 18

20. Which of these is the capital of the island nation at number 8 on the map?

- A. Valetta
- B. Skopje
- C. Tirana
- D. Nicosia

Questions 21-25 refer to image 2 in the resource section.

21. Sedimentary rock, which forms from compaction and cementation, is shown at which of these locations on the diagram?

- A. number 1
- B. letter B
- C. number 4
- D. letter D

22. What rock type, shown at 2 on the diagram, results from cooling magma?

- A. metamorphic
- B. igneous
- C. sedimentary
- D. conglomerate

23. What process is shown at letter B on the map?

- A. melting
- B. deposition and burial
- C. lithification
- D. heat and/or pressure

24. What pair of terms correctly identify the process at C and the material at 4 on the diagram?

- A. weathering and erosion; sediments
- B. melting; magma
- C. heat and pressure; igneous rock
- D. burial; metamorphic rock

25. Volcanic eruptions result in the formation of which of these types of rock?

- A. metamorphic metaconglomerates
- B. intrusive igneous
- C. extrusive igneous
- D. clastic sedimentary

Questions 26-30 refer to image 3 in the resource section.

26. Which of these is represented by the number 16 on the map?

- A. Zagros Mountains
- B. Tian Shan
- C. Himalayas
- D. Ural Mountains

27. What major South Asian river is shown at number 5?

- A. Indus
- B. Krishna
- C. Brahmaputra
- D. Godavari

28. What second highest peak in the world is indicated by the number 8 on the map?

- A. Lhotse
- B. Makalu
- C. K2
- D. Cho Oyu

29. Number 10 on the map shows what major physical feature of India?

- A. Thar Desert
- B. Deccan Plateau
- C. Eastern Ghats
- D. Nilgiri Hills

30. The area at 19 on the map is highly susceptible to which of these natural phenomena?

- A. seasonal monsoon flooding
- B. severe earthquakes
- C. frequent volcanic activity
- D. seasonal tornadoes

Questions 31-35 are about rivers.

31. Which of these terms describes the point where a river begins, typically in highlands or mountains?

- A. source
- B. watershed
- C. confluence
- D. mouth

32. Which of these features forms where a river deposits sediment in a fan-shaped pattern as it leaves a steep valley and reaches flat land?

- A. drainage basin
- B. levee
- C. riparian zone
- D. alluvial fan

33. Which of these is NOT a feature typically found in the lower course of a river?

- A. V-shaped valley
- B. delta
- C. meander
- D. floodplain

34. A river's discharge is measured in which of these ways?

- A. the length of the river from source to mouth
- B. the depth of the river at its deepest point
- C. the volume of water passing a point per second
- D. the speed of water at the river's surface

35. An oxbow lake is formed when which of these events occurs?

- A. two rivers join together at a confluence
- B. sediment builds up and blocks the river mouth
- C. a river cuts downward through rock to form a canyon
- D. a meander is cut off from the main river channel